

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07274 171338Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----092847 171339Z /46

O 171203Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2867  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7274

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PK, US, MNUC  
SUBJECT: REPROCESSING: CONVERSATION WITH SHAHNAWAZ

REF: ISLAMABAD 7017

1. ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ-WHO IN THE ABSENCE OF AGHA SHAHI IS THE RANKING MFA OFFICIAL-CALLED ME TO THE MINISTRY TODAY TO DISCUSS THE REPROCESSING ISSUE. ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NIAZ NAIK SAT IN.
2. SHAHNAWAZ NOTED THAT DURING MY MEETING WITH GENERAL ZIA (REFTEL) I HAD MADE A DEMARCHE ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE ASKING THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, AT A MINIMUM, POST-PONE THE SALE. THE ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY ADDED THAT IN LIGHT OF MY FORMAL DEMARCHE, THE MILITARY COUNCIL HAD CAREFULLY CONSIDERED ITS POSITION IN THIS MATTER.
3. SHAHNAWAZ THEN READ, FROM A PREPARED PAPER, THE FORMAL RESPONSE OF THE MILITARY COUNCIL. HE SAID THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF HOLDING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER. CONSEQUENTLY, THE COUNCIL IS NOT IN A POSITION TO TAKE A FAR-REACHING  
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DECISION WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE SUCCEEDING GOVERNMENT. THE COUNCIL REITERATED THAT PAKISTAN IS BOUND BY ITS FORMER PLEDGES AND CANNOT DEFAULT ON ITS AGREEMENT WITH PARIS. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE ENDED WITH THE COMMENT THAT WE ARE RECEIVING A FORMAL REACTION SO THERE WILL BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE GOP POSITION.

4. SHAHNAWAZ THEN REEMPHASIZED THAT THE COUNCIL BELIEVED IT HAD NO CHOICE IN THIS MATTER SINCE THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY ONE PURPOSE IN MIND- TO HOLD THE ELECTIONS. HE ALSO REITERATED THAT THE COUNCIL CANNOT TAKE A POSITION, IN SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER, CONTRARY TO THE POLICY OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT. ANY SUCH DECISION RESTS WITH A SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT.

5. I RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT WE APPRECIATED THE PROMPT RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST, AND I WOULD REPORT THE GOP'S POSITION IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON. I SAID I WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RESPONSE AND NOTED THAT INACTION BY THE GOP COULD HAVE ITS OWN CONSEQUENCES, AS I HAD OUTLINED TO GENERAL ZIA. REPEATING A CENTRAL POINT MADE TO ZIA, I HIGHLIGHTED THAT WE WERE BOUND BY LEGISLATIVE MANDATE AND WE MUST SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES ON BILATERAL RELATIONS OF IMPOSITION OF THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT. I SAID WE WISHED TO CONTINUE TO HAVE DISCUSSION ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE, AND SHAHNAWAZ AGREED OUR GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO TALK.

6. WE CLOSED THE CONVERSATION WITH A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF JOE NYE'S SCHEDULED VISIT JULY 29 AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS WITH GOP OFFICIALS NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES GENERALLY AND REPROCESSING SPECIFICALLY.

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7. COMMENT:- THE MEETING'S ATMOSPHERE WAS MORE CASUAL AND RELAXED THAN SIMILAR CONVERSATIONS WITH AGHA SHAHI. IT IS NOTABLE THAT SHAHNAWAZ EMPHASIZED THE POINT THAT THE MILITARY COUNCIL HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE GOP POLICY, WHILE SHAHI'S PRESENTATIONS HAVE TENDED TO BE MORE CONFRONTATIONAL, HIGHLIGHTING PAKISTAN'S RESOLVE TO GO AHEAD IN SPITE OF PRESSURES TO POSTPONE OR CANCEL. ALTHOUGH THE PACKAGE WAS MORE ATTRACTIVELY WRAPPED, HOWEVER, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GOP POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED.

8. THE NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMABAD, WHO WILL CARRY TO THE GOP THE SHAH'S VIEWS ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT, HAS NOT YET ARRIVED. SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AGHA SHAHI, IS NOW VISITING TEHRAN WHERE HE WILL PRESUMABLY BE GIVEN THE SHAH'S VIEWS. AGHA SHAHI, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS (AND CONTRARY TO WHAT THE FRENCH TOLD US IN PARIS), WILL ALSO VISIT FRANCE, AS WELL AS KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA, RETURNING JULY 23.  
HUMMEL

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